

Lincoln Heights Neighborhood Council Meeting – draft minutes

May 16, 2023

6-7:30 pm

Southside Community Center

### **Welcome**

Chair, Carol Tomsic, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She reminded everyone to comment on the Building Opportunity for Housing draft proposal.

She said our usual room was double-booked, so we are in the smaller room again.

Attendees introduced themselves.

### **Attendance**

Carol Tomsic, Nancy Plourde, Jim Plourde, Nancy Harnetiaux, Jacob Cain, Shawn Terjeson, Nadine Timm, Marilyn Reimann, Henry Reimann, Marcia Tunik, Marilyn Lloyd, Robyn Lashbrook, Terrence Lynch, Diane Birginal, Theresa Bidowski, Bill Bidowski, Jeff Lambert, Patrick McKann, Donovan Arnold-Deleon.

### **Approve Minutes**

It was decided to defer the approval of the March and April minutes until next month so more members could read them prior to approval.

### **City Council Member Betsy Wilkerson, City Council Update**

Betsy said the state legislatures recriminalized the possession of illegal drugs after the Blake law had ruled felony drug procession unconstitutional. The new law categorizes drug possession and public drug use as a gross misdemeanor. The law is similiar to the city's recently passed drug use ordinance. She also said residents didn't expect the Town Hall Budget Meetings to be in an open house format and they were left without a lot of information. Betsy said a second round of small business grants was open. She said there was \$334,000 in rental assistance. The rental funds are the last of the Commerce money. Betsy said there will be a Park Board levy for healthy parks in neighborhoods. She said the levy will not be for Riverfront Park. It can possibly fund bathroom upgrades and art. She said there will be a first reading on short term rentals. Betsy said owners will have to have a business license. Short term rentals are rentals under 30 days. She said the city is \$10 million short in the budget. The homeless shelters are funded through June. She also invited everyone to join her at the Junior Lilac Parade on Saturday. Betsy answered questions. It was stated that Freya/13<sup>th</sup> is a park desert and safe crosswalks are needed. Community gardens were discussed. A park levy land purchase in the Garden District PUD was suggested. Graffiti in Underhill was mentioned. New sprinkler systems in parks could be covered under the park levy. A dog park was discussed.

### **City Council Member Lori Kinnear, City Council Update**

A city council update from Lori was received via email on 5/17/23.

*Quick update:*

*Council passed the drug possession and use ordinance 7-0 two weeks ago. The state just finished passing theirs and Inslee is set to sign it. It differs from ours in that the penalties are different. We will know more when our legal team analyzes it. We must conform to the state regs so some changes will happen after July 1.*

*Traffic calming discussion continues. We have identified about 20 spots for speed cameras around parks and hospitals. Fairly equal amongst the three districts. The consultant who administers the program will measure data from each site to determine if the traffic counts and speeds are worth installing cameras. That will take a little while. In the meantime speeds will be lowered around parks for the summer. We are considering giving police five radar cameras for their cars as a pilot to see if they have time to stop speeders while they are out on patrol. The radar works in a moving car and can detect speeds in two directions.*

*The City Line will be up and running on July 15 with ribbon cutting on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The governor is planning to attend as are other elected and dignitaries. The public can attend as well. More information on times etc. will be forthcoming.*

*Council will be considering a park ordinance that sets a curfew from 10- 5. Those in the park after hours can be detained. This is due to high incidence of vandalism, drinking/partying and shootings in parks in the last year. This is controversial in that people want to hang out in the park after hours. However, the rise in violence should be taken into consideration as well as what is best for the entire community not just a select few. We don't have a set date to vote on this yet.*

*As always please email if you have questions or concerns. [lkinnear@spokanecity.org](mailto:lkinnear@spokanecity.org)*

### **Terrence Lynch, NSC Project Engineer, Presentation on North/South Corridor Alternatives**

Terrence introduced himself and said Robyn Lashbrook, his assistant project engineer, would be presenting. He also said the online survey would close tomorrow evening at midnight. Robyn began with a slide of the agenda. She then showed the connecting segments. She said the Spokane river crossing would have three bridges, one for east and west traffic and one for the Children of the Sun trail. Robyn said Washington State Department of Transportation was re-engaging for more input on two alternatives. She said the original Collector Distributer System had no access to I-90 other than at Hamilton and Sprague. She said Alternate 2 will reroute the Hamilton entrance. Robyn said there was an Alternative 3, requested by businesses in the East Central neighborhood, but after a traffic analysis it was determined the alternative would not operate correctly. She said the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that I-90 operate at or better than without a connecting project. Robyn answered a question on signage on the Hamilton exit. She said there will be clear guidance on the placement of signs. Altamont cones placed with the Freya construction were discussed. Terrence said the Altamont roundabout will perform better. He also said carefully placed ramps will improve operation and safety. Terrence said the freeway will be completed in 2026-2030. Robyn said there will be an

East Central Placemaking in Fall of 2023. She said there are no connections to Sprague. She said there are tradeoffs in the alternatives. There is also a difference of \$27 million. There is traffic metering on south bound Altamont in Alternate 2.. Robyn showed 3D images of both alternatives. Robyn answered questions. She said sound walls will be discussed at a later stage. She said the ramps will have room to store snow on wide shoulders and will have snow vents and adequate storage. The relocation of Avista of poles and transmission lines was discussed. Avista said it was extremely expensive to put all infrastructure underground. There will be less poles and it will look better. It was noted transmissions are hard to maintain underground. It can take up to six months to repair. Robyn answered questions. She said it was not safe to install car charging stations on freeways. She said to take the survey. She said they already had 1000 responses to the survey. It was noted the public would weigh in on the pedestrian bridges later. Funding was approved for a Liberty Park land bridge study, but not for construction expenses. It was noted Governor Inslee had signed the bill in the morning that would fully fund the North South Corridor but had exercised his line-item veto. She said there is also a potential for surplus land. The use of the surplus land would be community driven. Betsy said she would like to see the surplus land restored back to housing.

#### **Marilyn Lloyd, Community Engagement Grant**

The community engagement grant application was presented by Marilyn and discussed. A vote was called to approve the Community Engagement Grant application. It was stated a member needed to attend two out of six of our regularly scheduled meetings to be an eligible voter. (Our council has 22 eligible voters, and we had a quorum). Donovan Arnold-Deleon motioned, and Marilyn Lloyd seconded. A vote was taken. 13 yes votes. Zero no votes. Non-voting members abstained.

**The meeting was adjourned.**

**Next meeting is 6/20/23 on Zoom.**